

*AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION*

Please replace the paragraph found on page 17 at lines 3-26 with the following paragraph.

A variety of approaches to take advantage of the relationship between ABI5 production, ABA and stress are available. Overexpression of ABI5 may be desired to delay germination or to arrest the growth of germinated seeds. This desire for delay can occur if weather conditions would cause plants to germinate and grow at an inopportune time, such as too early or prior to the normal growing season because of unusual weather. Plants which overexpress ABI5 could be inhibited in their germination and growth by an application of ABA. Because overexpression of ABI5 makes seeds, seedlings and plants hypersensitive to ABA, lower levels of ABA would be required as compared to ABA application to wild type plants. In addition, ABI5 expression can be either under the control of a constitutive promoter or it can be under the control of an activatable promoter, e.g., a promoter which can be induced or derepressed. Transgenic seeds, seedlings and plants which use a constitutive promoter for ABI5 expression can be manipulated by adjusting the amount of ABA to which they are exposed. Transgenic seeds, seedlings and plants which use an activatable promoter can be manipulated by activating the promoter and/or adjusting the amount of ABA to which they are exposed. By activating the promoter to overexpress ABI5 it becomes possible to utilize lower levels of ABA as compared to levels required to obtain the same phenocopy in a wild type plant. Activatable promoters for plants are well known by those of skill in the art. See, for example, Zuo and Chua (2000), Zuo et al. (2000), Aoyama and Chua (1997), which are incorporated herein by reference. Such promoters include TetR, tTA, GVG, AlcR, GVGEc, ER-C1, XVE and TGV. Using activatable promoters can be advantageous for certain purposes, e.g., it allows one to increase ABI5 production during times of stress such as drought but not during other times, e.g., with a constitutive promoter plant growth may be inhibited at times when it would be preferred for the plant to be growing normally. Of course, it is the combination of overexpression of ABI5 in conjunction with the levels of ABA which effect the response to stress, overexpression of ABI5 alone not being sufficient.